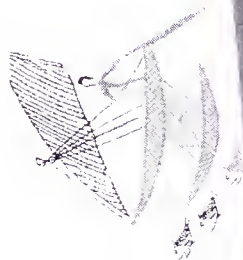


CURRENT BROCHURE

Diving and Snorkeling

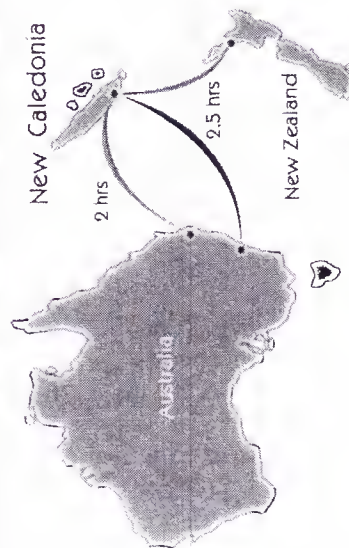
Come and explore a unique new
World Heritage listed underwater paradise

in New Caledonia



The world's largest lagoon

Home to over 900 varieties of coral, many unique to New Caledonia, and an amazing collection of over 5,000 marine species.



Divers from around the world have long known about New Caledonia's underwater wonderland, but until the lagoons and reef were recently listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site it was a well kept secret from snorkeling fanatics! And it's all a short flying time from Australia (only 2 hours from Brisbane and under 3 hours from Sydney).

The lagoon covers an area of approximately 24,000 square kilometers and is protected by a 8,000 kilometres of coral reef structures, featuring crystal clear waters and exceptional flora and fauna (many species of which are endemic to New Caledonia).

The reef is also located just 30 minutes from Nouméa which allows more exploring time and less travel.

Those new to snorkeling can try the Lagoon Trek at Kuendu. Duck Island is another interesting experience, just a few minutes from Nouméa by water taxi, it features a protected nature reserve with a unique trail where you follow special signs through the marine life underwater.

Amedée Island is also a short boat trip away and one of New Caledonia's 'must do' day trips.

One hour from Nouméa is Ténia Island which lies in the centre of an unspoilt marine reserve with an inspiring discovery trail. You may even swim with dolphins and turtles that frequent these pristine waters.

A 20 minute flight will take you to the Isle of Pines, where you must not miss the amazing 'natural pool' at Oro Boy,

10 GREAT REASONS TO DIVE AND SNORKEL IN NEW CALEDONIA

- The pristine waters of the world's largest lagoon
- The world's 2nd largest Coral Reef
- Now on the UNESCO World Heritage List
- An ideal water temperature (21 to 28°)
- Immense variety of vegetal and animal species
- Diverse choice of underwater landscapes
- Virgin and rarely visited dive sites
- Dives adapted to respective levels of expertise
- Professional dive operators and compliance to strict regulations
- Optimum security decompression chamber

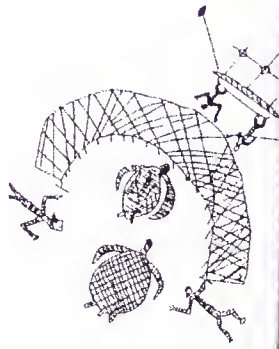
which has been described as a 'massive sparkling aquarium with exquisite coral and marine life'. And if it's 'undiscovered' you're after, Lifou in the Loyalty Islands offers incredible water clarity and abundance of sealife (see back page).

There is a choice of experienced dive and snorkel operators who offer a range of full day and half-day trips.

For something truly unique, there is a special night snorkeling trip that uses special torches to illuminate the fantastic fluorescent corals. C'est magnifique!



and 2nd largest coral reef



Boulouparis

La corne de Ténia (Tenia Horn): features a cliff face with a coral massif which harbours lots of different fauna (numerous fish species, shoals of grey sharks, turtles, eagle rays, pelagic marine life). Minimum Level 1 is required.

Bourail

La fausse passe de l'Îlot Vert (the false pass of the green islet): provides numerous possibilities, from initiation dives to deep dives. Abundant marine life: Napoleon fish, black pointer sharks, leopard sharks, stingrays, leopard rays, rockling and large shoals of pelagic marine life.

Le grand caude de Kélé (Kélé elbow): nice vertical drop of 18 to 70 metres with some good sized canyons and magnificent coral. Grey sharks, eagle rays, shoals of becuane fish and rockling.

La faille de l'Îlot Shark (Shark islet rift): dive in an old riverbed invaded by the sea. Guitar rays can still be found.

Hienghène

Daiman Reef - Cathédrale: o deep rift leads into a tunnel which emerges into an area frequented by large pelagic marine life. The dive then continues down for more than 55 metres along o breathtaking high wall. Beautiful garqonio of humpback parrot fish (October, November), tuna, barracuda, tozars, grey sharks and 'albimarginatus'.

Hienghène Pass: large humpback whales can often be observed between July and November. The dive begins with the descent into a well which emerges under a large arch dotted with gorgonia.

Hiengu Pass: the Fonti reef is o large coral massif sheltered from the tradewinds. Two large caves with ceilings that open up to the surface with pristine coral, where many rockling have made their home.

Isle of Pines

Le jardin d'Eden (Garden of Eden): o succession of rifts between 5 and 50 metres. Soft corals, gorgons, olcyonnaires and sponges. Recommended for experienced divers.

La vallée des garganes (Gargan Valley): abundant fauna, numerous rifts.

La gratte de la 3e (The 3rd cave): unique dive in a forest with stalactites and stalagmites in the immersed part of the cave. Recommended for experienced divers.

Kasmira Reef: ideal for divers and snorkelers, with a high seabed full of fish and leopard sharks.

Mont-Dore

L'Aiguille de Prany (Prany needle): a huge chimney grading originates 38 metres under water and rises to 2 metres below the surface. A kingdom for bivalves and spawning season for rockling in November.

Walo
Belep
Archipelago
Northern
Islands

NORTHERN
PROVINCE

LOYALTY IS
PROVINCE

Wé

Ufou

Chepetche

Yaté

Isle of Pines

Isle
Ouen

Dore

NOUMEA

La Tontouta

Boulouparis

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now on the World Heritage List



Nouméa

L'île aux Canards (Duck Island): Under water pathway for snorkeling in a marine reserve. Ideal site for initiation dives and guided visits organised by the Centre for Initiation of the Environment.

La patate à Tépova (The "Potato" at Tépova): ideal for divers and snorkelers. This coral formation lies at a depth of 12 metres and features several straight tunnels. Abundant fauna, large rockling, stingrays, small lagoon sharks and turtles.

The Wreck of the Snork: a Panamanian cargo ship sunk in 1942 near a sandbank. Leopard and black spotted rays are frequent.

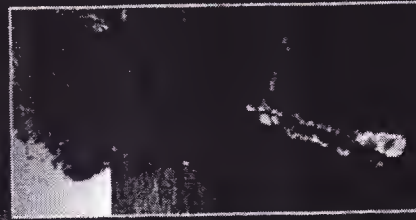
Lo patate du Phore Amédée: perfect for divers and snorkelers, with an underwater reserve that is home to porraitfish, yellow 'borbillans', butterfly fish and more.

The Wreck of the Dieppoise: the last wooden patrol boat of the Royal Navy sunk in 1988 has become a dive site, located 26 metres underwater. Superb rockling and myriads of other fish. An ideal dive for beginners.

Lo patate du Sournais (The sneaky patate): rises up from a 10 metre seabed. In calm weather, the weak current makes this dive ideal for beginners. A large shoal of yellow cord 'mullets' adds a beautiful touch of gold. During the cooler season, living nautilus can also be observed.

The Wreck of the Humbolt: sunk in 1993 to make an artificial reef. This site is inhabited by costex rockling, night

Guided Snorkeling



Guided snorkeling trips are offered by several well-established local tour

operators such as Aquanature, Tieti Diving and Babou Cote Lagon). Ideal for

the whole family, children are welcome and very well catered for. A chance for ocean discovery along with the opportunity to picnic on a coral island makes this the ideal day excursion.

mullet and chicken scorpion fish.

The southern point of the Tabou Reef: the very jagged slope of the reef ends on a seabed of 25 metres. The marine life is abundant: porcelain crayfish, 'carangues', tazars.

Boulari Pass: is known for its concentration of fish, large round loach, shoals of blue loach and 'carangues'. With luck, you will witness the majestic Mania Ray 'ballet'.

Poindimié

Divers will be spoilt for choice with the centre's 50 sites characterised by a relief made of rifts, arches and canyons scattered with gorgonia and 'alcyonnaires' and a diversity of fauna (small and large fish), as well as other crawling sea creatures.

Ouvéa

The Ouvéa atoll and its cluster of small islands protect one of the most beautiful islands in the world with the longest beach in New Caledonia featuring 25 kilometres of fine white sand. The diving sites outside the coral reef are protected from the tradewinds. Here drift diving is the norm.

This is an indicative list only!



